

Amendment to the Claims:

Applicant cancels Claims 1 and 13 and changes dependency of Claims 5, 7 and 9 so they depend from Claim 2 rather than Claim 1. With these changes, all pending claims fall in one of two categories. A first category includes allowed Claims 2 – 4 and 16. A second category includes Claims 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17 and 19 all of which depend directly or indirectly from allowed Claim 2.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously presented) A non-crosslinked cellular thermoplastic ethylenic polymer foam having an average cell diameter of greater than 2 mm wherein greater than 50 percent of the cells have been opened by mechanical means.
3. (Original) A cellular thermoplastic polymer foam according to Claim 2 wherein the average cell diameter is greater than 3 mm.
4. (Original) A cellular thermoplastic polymer foam according to Claim 3 wherein the average cell diameter is greater than 4 mm.
5. (Currently amended) A foam according to Claim [[1 ]] 2 further comprising a fire retardant.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently amended) A foam according to Claim [[1 ]] 2 wherein the thermoplastic ethylenic polymer is selected from ethylenic polymers, copolymers, or blends thereof.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Currently amended) A foam according to Claim [[1 ]] 2, wherein the thermoplastic ethylenic polymer comprise(s) polyethylene resin(s).
10. (Original) A foam according to Claim 7, wherein the ethylenic polymer is a low density polyethylene.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously presented) A foam according to Claim 9, wherein the thermoplastic ethylenic polymer comprises an ethylenic copolymer and a low density polyethylene.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) A foam according to Claim 2, wherein the cellular thermoplastic foam is an extruded foam in which the cells are elongated and the orientation of cell elongation is in the extrusion direction.

15. (Original) A foam according to Claim 7, wherein the cellular thermoplastic foam is an extruded foam in which the cells are elongated and the orientation of cell elongation is in the extrusion direction.

16. (Previously presented) A non-crosslinked cellular thermoplastic polypropylene foam having an average cell diameter of greater than 4 mm, the foam being an extruded foam in which the cells are elongated and the orientation of cell elongation is in the extrusion direction.

17. (Original) A foam according to Claim 7, wherein the cellular thermoplastic foam is in a coalesced strand form.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) A foam according to Claim 14, wherein the cellular thermoplastic foam is in a coalesced strand form.

20. (Cancelled)